

## Message Text

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17

ACTION SAM-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /085 W

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P 130800Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2140

INFO US MISSION USUN PRIORITY 481

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SS, SP, MO

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: WALDHEIM VISIT TO MADRID

REF: USUN 1779

SUMMARY: IN INITIAL CONTACTS WITH SPANISH MEDIA AND OFFICIALDOM, UNSYG WALDHEIM UNDERScored SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION IN SAHARA. FONMIN CORTINA REITERATED GOS COMMITMENT TO UN-SPONSORED SOLUTION AS LONG AS SPANISH WITHDRAWAL COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED PEACEFULLY, BUT SPANISH DETERMINATION TO PULL OUT AT TIME OF ITS OWN CHOOSING IF PEACE IS DISTURBED IN AREA. END SUMMARY

1. UNSYG WALDHEIM ARRIVED IN MADRID JUNE 11 FOR TWO-DAY VISIT, THE FIRST OF ANY UNSYG TO SPAIN. HE HAS ALREADY SEEN FONMIN CORTINA PREMIER ARIAS NAVARRO AND FRANCO.

2. AT AIRPORT WALDHEIM TOLD PRESS REPS THAT SITUATION  
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IN SAHARA WAS "VERY GRAVE". HE SAID THAT QUESTION OF

DESPATCH OF UN TROOPS IN SAHARA HAD NOT ARISEN AND COULD ONLY BE REQUESTED BY INTERESTED COUNTRIES AND APPROVED BY SECURITY COUNCIL. ASKED ABOUT GOS PROPOSAL FOR QUADRIPARTITE TALKS AMONG INTERESTED COUNTRIES, WALDHEIM REPLIED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THERE WAS NO UNANIMITY AMONG INTERESTED GOVT TO HOLD SUCH A MEETING.

3. IN AFTER DINNER SPEECH JUNE 11, UNSYG SAID THAT HE WOULD DO HIS UTMOST TO PROMOTE SOLUTION TO SAHARAN ISSUE. "SITUATION CONTAINS A RISK OF CONFRONTATION WHICH COULD AFFECT NOT ONLY PEACE IN THAT REGION BUT ALSO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY," HE SAID. REFERRING TO PENDING ICJ ADVISORY OPINION AND INVESTIGATING MISSION OF UN COMMITTEE OF 24, WALDHEIM SAID THEIR REPORTS SHOULD BE READY" IN MATTER OF WEEKS".

4. IN HIS SPEECH, FONMIN CORTINA SAID GOS HAD SOUGHT MAXIMUM COLLABORATION WITH UN AND ITS ORGANS IN DECOLONIZATION PROCESS: "...PARTICIPATION OF UN IS TH E GREATEST GUARANTEE THAT DECOLONIZATION OF SAHARA IS CARRIED OUT PEACEFULLY." NOTWITHSTANDING START OF DECOLONIZATION PROCESS BY GOS UNDE R UN AUSPICES, HOWEVER, INCIDENTS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN AREA T O UPSET PEACEFUL EVOLUTION AND WOULD PROBABLY BE FOLLOWED BY NEW DISTURBANCES, HE SAID. GOS, THEREFORE, HAD TRIED TO PREVENT DISRUPTION OF PROCESS OF PEACEFUL CHANGE BY MAKING ADJACENT INTERESTED PARTIES CONSCIOUS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESERVATION OF PEACE BY ABSTAINING FROM ACTIONS OR FROM ALLOWING THEIR TERRITORY TO BE USED FOR ACTIONS WHICH WOULD THREATEN PEACE IN AREA. CORTINA SAID THAT GOS WOULD CARRY OUT DECOLONIZATION UNDER UN DIRECTION IF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES RESPECTED OBLIGATIONS UNDER UN CHATER; SHOULD PEACE IN AREA BE DISTURBED, HOWEVER, THEY SPAIN WOULD "BE FORCED TO RECOVER ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION...AND PROCEED WITH SPEED IT JUDGES OPPORTUNE TO END ITS PRESENCE IN WESTERN SAHARA."

5. AS FURTHER BACKGROUND TO CORTINA'S REMARKS, AND TO POLICY STATEMENT DELIVERED BY GOS TO UNSYG IN NEW YORK MAY 23 (REFTEL), WE NOTE THAT MINISTER OF ARMY, LT. GEN. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLOMA, MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT DURING COURSE OF INSPECTION VISIT TO SAHARA, MAY 25-28: "SPAIN WILL WITHDRAW FROM TERRITORY IN ACCORANCE WITH COMMITMENTS AND SCHEDULE SET BY UN OR WILL ADVANCE THIS MOVEMENT IN THE EVENT THAT UN IS INCAPABLE OF MAINTAINING ACCEPTABLE ORDER AMONG INTERESTED MEMBER COUNTRIES. NEITHER THE BUCRAA PHOSPHATES NOR ALL THE RICHES WHICH EXIST FOR POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION WOULD JUSTIFY A TEAR OR A DROP OF SPANISH BLOOD."

6. COMMENT: CORTINA AND COLOMA HAVE FURTHER EMPHASIZED  
AND DEFINED GOS DECISION ANNOUNCED MAY 23 TO PULL OUT OF  
SAHARA AT TIME OF ITS OWN CHOOSING UNLESS DECOLONIZATION  
PROCESS IS ALLOWED TO PROCEED ALONG PEACEFUL LINES.  
SPANISH MEDIA CONTINUE OVERWHELMING PRAISE AND SUPPORT  
FOR GOVT'S DECISION TO AVOID DRAWN-OUT PROCESS OF WITHDRAWAL  
WITH PITFALLS OF POSSIBLE WARFARE AND POLITICAL IMBROGLIO IN  
NORTH AFRICA. EVEN ULTRA-RIGHTIST PRESS HAS ASSENTED OR  
REMAINED TACTFULLY SILENT, REFLECTING LIMITED ENTHUSIASM  
IN GOVT, ARMY, OR IN MAN-ON-THE-STREET TO FIGHT FOR  
QUESTIONABLE CAUSES IN SAHARA.  
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